

LOIS CAPPS
23RD DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

2231 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0527
(202) 225-3601

www.capps.house.gov

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

DISTRICT OFFICES

1411 MARSH STREET, SUITE 205
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401
(805) 546-8348

301 EAST CARRILLO STREET, SUITE A
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101
(805) 736-1710

2675 NORTH VENTURA ROAD, SUITE 105
PORT HUENEME, CA 93041
(805) 985-6807

December 16, 2011

Doug Bosco, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Support for the Goleta Slough Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Project

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I write to you today to express my strong support for the City of Santa Barbara's request to the State Coastal Conservancy for funding to update the 1997 Draft *Goleta Slough Ecosystem Management Plan* (GSEMP), including a Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment. The overall goal of the project is to plan for future conservation and management of the Slough's natural resources and infrastructure in light of anticipated climate change impacts.

The Goleta Slough, located in southern Santa Barbara County, is one of the largest coastal wetlands on California's Central Coast. It provides valuable habitat for numerous threatened and endangered species, including the Federally endangered tidewater goby, and the State-listed Belding's savannah sparrow and loggerhead shrike. The Slough also encompasses a complex array of land uses including a regional airport, two sanitary district facilities, underground gas storage facilities and pipelines, utilities infrastructure, numerous businesses, a County Beach Park, a state ecological reserve, state marine park as well as roads, bridges, and water conveyances, both natural and channelized. Many of the roads in and around Goleta Slough lie at low elevations, including those that connect U.C. Santa Barbara (UCSB) and the Santa Barbara Airport (Airport) with the surrounding community.

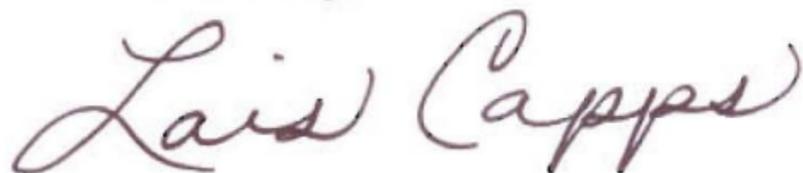
Slough conditions could change dramatically in future decades with increased sea levels from the effects of climate change. Facilities located in the vicinity of the Slough provide numerous essential services to the community and are at risk from increases in sea levels due to their elevation. Without advance planning, sea level rise could lead to losses of important habitat and ecological functions, as well as hundreds of millions of dollars of direct damages and lost economic productivity.

The GSEMP Update will include one of the first vulnerability assessments in the region, and can serve as a pilot project for climate adaptation planning along coastal California. The project will result in new information and strategies that will be used by many agencies and interested

stakeholders such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Army Corps of Engineers Federal Aviation Administration, local and state decision-makers, as well as UC Santa Barbara, environmental organizations and property owners. The Update and Study will enable these and other interested parties to work together to plan a sustainable future for the Slough.

I urge you to give the City of Santa Barbara's grant request your full and fair consideration, consistent with all relevant rules and regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Lois Capps". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

LOIS CAPPS

Member of Congress

Exhibit 4: Project Letters
Assembly
California Legislature



DAS WILLIAMS
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, THIRTY-FIFTH DISTRICT

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0035
(916) 319-2035
FAX (916) 319-2135

DISTRICT OFFICES
101 WEST ANAPAMU STREET, SUITE A
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101
(805) 564-1649
FAX (805) 564-1651

OXNARD TRANSPORTATION CENTER
201 EAST FOURTH STREET, SUITE 209A
OXNARD, CA 93030
(805) 483-9808
FAX (805) 483-8182

December 14, 2011

Doug Bosco, Chair
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1300
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Support of the Goleta Slough Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I want to express my strong support for the City of Santa Barbara's request to the State Coastal Conservancy for funding to update the 1997 Draft *Goleta Slough Ecosystem Management Plan* (GSEMP), including a Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment. The Update and Study will allow the jurisdictions and stakeholders who have an interest in the greater Slough area to work together on a planning a sustainable future for the Slough.

The Goleta Slough, located in southern Santa Barbara County, is one of the largest coastal wetlands on California's Central Coast. It provides valuable habitat for numerous threatened and endangered species, including the federally endangered tidewater goby, and the State-listed Belding's savannah sparrow and loggerhead shrike. The Slough also encompasses a complex array of land uses including a regional airport, two sanitary district facilities, underground gas storage facilities and pipelines, other utilities infrastructure, several businesses, a County Beach Park, a state ecological reserve, a state marine park and numerous roads, bridges, and water conveyances, both natural and channelized. Many of the roads in and around Goleta Slough lie at low elevations, including those that connect UC Santa Barbara (UCSB) and the Santa Barbara Airport (Airport) with the surrounding community.

Slough conditions could change dramatically in future decades with increased sea levels. Facilities located in the vicinity of the Slough area provide numerous essential services to the community, and are at risk from impacts of projected increases in sea levels due to their elevation. Without advance planning, projected changes to Goleta Slough could lead to devastating losses of species and ecological functions, as well as hundreds of millions of dollars of direct damages and lost infrastructure and economic productivity.

The GSEMP Update, and particularly the Sea Level Rise Study, will be of great interest to local, state and federal agencies, as well as UC Santa Barbara, environmental groups, local special districts and property owners. The project will include one of the first sea level rise vulnerability assessments in the region, and as such it will serve as a pilot project for climate adaptation planning. The project will result in new information and strategies that will be used by the many agencies with jurisdiction in the Slough area, such as the California Coastal Commission and Department of Fish and Game, to plan and manage its built and natural assets, as well as serving as a template for other areas vulnerable to the impacts of sea level rise.



This project is a high priority for my district. The overall goal of the project is to plan for future conservation and management of the Slough's vital natural resources and infrastructure in light of anticipated climate change impacts. The GSEMP Update will result in strategies and information that will be useful in guiding conservation of the Slough wetland ecosystem functions and habitats for its endangered and threatened species and help guide future maintenance and development of infrastructure in the slough. This proactive stewardship will help the community and the region address the challenges and uncertainties ahead.

I strongly support this effort and urge you to approve a grant to the City of Santa Barbara to fund this project. It was great to meet you at the conservancy meeting at Fort Bragg, it was only my second meeting as an oversight board member, but I am already even more impressed by the Conservancy's work. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Hillary Blackerby in my Santa Barbara District Office at (805) 564-1649. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Das Williams', written in a cursive style.

DAS WILLIAMS

Assemblymember, 35th District



VERNON AND MARY CHEADLE CENTER
FOR BIODIVERSITY AND ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION (CCBER)
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY, EVOLUTION AND MARINE BIOLOGY
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93106-9615
CENTER FAX (805) 893-4222

FACULTY DIRECTOR
dantonio@lifesci.ucsb.edu
KATHERINE ESAU DIRECTOR
thorsch@lifesci.ucsb.edu
(805) 893-2401
COLLECTIONS (805) 893-2401
ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT (805) 893-4158
stratton@lifesci.ucsb.edu
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION (805) 893-2506
jmyers@lifesci.ucsb.edu

December 12, 2011

Douglas Bosco, Chair
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Support for the Goleta Slough Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment Project

Dear Chairman Bosco:

As Director of Ecosystem Management at UCSB's Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration, I would like to express my strong support for City of Santa Barbara's request to the State Coastal Conservancy for funding to update the 1997 Draft *Goleta Slough Ecosystem Management Plan* to include a Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment.

The Goleta Slough, located in southern Santa Barbara County, is one of the largest coastal wetlands on California's Central Coast and provides valuable habitat for numerous species. The Slough also encompasses a complex array of land uses including a regional airport, two sanitary district facilities, underground gas storage facilities and pipelines, other utilities infrastructure, several businesses, a County Park, a state ecological reserve and numerous roads, bridges, and water conveyances, both natural and channelized. Many of the roads in and around Goleta Slough lie at low elevations, including those that connect U.C. Santa Barbara (UCSB) and the Santa Barbara Airport (Airport) with the surrounding community.

As a manager of open space on the UCSB campus, including historic sections of Goleta Slough, I value this study for the insight it will provide for restoration planning in Storke Wetlands and the adjacent Upper Devereux Slough Restoration project. Understanding the implications of sea level rise and incorporating that hydrology into restoration plans will make them more viable into the future. Slough conditions could change dramatically in future decades with increased sea levels and more severe 'extreme events'. Without advance planning, such changes to the slough could lead to destructive emergency response actions which could have devastating effects on species and ecological functions.

The Goleta Slough Management Committee (GSMC) will manage the project with the City. This management structure will allow both the infrastructure representatives and ecological

stakeholders to ensure that their concerns are addressed in the study. GSMC was established in 1991 and has worked cooperatively with agencies, property owners and NGOs to provide for a healthy Goleta Slough Ecosystem since that time. GSMC is currently updating the 1997 Goleta Slough Ecosystem Management Plan (GSEMP) with details about the many acres of restoration that has occurred since 1997. Incorporating a preliminary Sea Level Rise (SLR) Study into the update will ensure that this document continues to play a relevant guiding role in long term planning for all stakeholders.

The GSEMP Update and particularly the Sea Level Rise Study will be of great interest to local agencies, environmental groups and property owners, state and federal agencies, as well as UC Santa Barbara. The project will include one of the first site-level sea level rise vulnerability assessments in the region, and as such it will serve as a climate adaptation pilot project. The project will result in new information and strategies that will be used by local jurisdictions to plan and manage the built and natural assets of the Slough, as well as serving as a template for other areas vulnerable to impacts of sea level rise. In particular, CCBER has initiated planning for the upper Devereux Restoration Project, which will greatly benefit from the results and increased understanding of local SLR effects.

UCSB and CCBER strongly support this project and we urge you to approve a grant to the City of Santa Barbara to fund this project. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Lisa Stratton", written in a cursive style.

Lisa Stratton, Ph.D.

Director of Ecosystem Mgmt, CCBER



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

December 16, 2011

Douglas Bosco, Chair
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Support for the Goleta Slough Ecosystem Management Plan Update and Seal Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment Project

Dear Chairman Bosco,

I want to express my strong support for the City of Santa Barbara's request to the State Coastal Conservancy for funding to update the 1997 Draft *Goleta Slough Ecosystem Management Plan*, including a Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment. The Update will allow many jurisdictions and stakeholders to work together on a planning a sustainable future for the Slough.

The Goleta Slough, located within the County's Second District, is one of the largest coastal wetlands on California's Central Coast and is a valuable habitat for several threatened and endangered species. The Slough also encompasses a variety of land uses including an airport, sanitary district facilities, underground gas storage facilities and pipelines, several businesses, a County Park, a state ecological reserve and numerous roads, bridges, and water conveyances. Many of the roads in and around Goleta Slough lie at low elevations.

Slough conditions could change dramatically in future decades with increased sea levels. Facilities located within the Slough area provide essential services to the community. Without advance planning, projected changes to the slough could lead to losses of species and ecological functions, as well as hundreds of millions of dollars of direct damages and lost infrastructure and economic productivity.

The GSEMP Update and the Sea Level Rise Study will be of great interest to local, state and federal agencies. The project will include one of the first site-level sea level rise vulnerability assessments in the region and will result in new information and strategies that will be used by the many agencies with jurisdiction in the Slough area.

This project is a high priority for the Second District. This proactive stewardship will help the community and the region address the challenges that may lie ahead. I strongly support this effort and urge you to approve a grant to the City of Santa Barbara for this project. Please contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janet Wolf".

Janet Wolf

Santa Barbara County Supervisor
Second District

RECEIVED

DEC 19 2011

COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County

« preserving natural lands and our agricultural heritage »

December 14, 2011

Douglas Bosco, Chair
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Support for the Goleta Slough Sea Level Rise Study

Dear Chairman Bosco:

As Executive Director of the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County, I strongly support the proposed update to the 1997 Draft *Goleta Slough Ecosystem Management Plan* that will include a sea level rise study. The City of Santa Barbara has approached the State Coastal Conservancy for funding to facilitate this project, and I urge you to approve the request.

Goleta Slough is one of the largest coastal wetlands on California's Central Coast. Not only does it support many special-status species and habitats, the slough also encompasses a complex array of land uses including a regional airport, two sanitary district facilities, underground gas storage facilities and pipelines, among other infrastructure.

Slough conditions could change dramatically in future decades with increased sea levels. The facilities located within the slough area that provide numerous essential services to the community are at risk from sea level rise due to their elevation. Without advance planning, projected changes to the slough could lead to hundreds of millions of dollars of direct damages and lost infrastructure and economic productivity, as well as environmental degradation.

The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County has had an ongoing presence in the Goleta Slough since the 1990s. For the past five years we have spearheaded the West Goleta Slough Restoration and Enhancement Project, which entailed the re-creation of seven acres of wetlands, removal of fill soil, and the demolition of old military bunkers onsite, at a cost of over \$2.7M. This is one of many restoration projects within the Goleta Slough ecosystem for which millions of dollars of public funding have been appropriated in the last two decades. The proposed sea-level rise study is needed not only to study how best to protect infrastructure within the slough, but also how to safeguard its existing natural resources. It would be a shame to see the public dollars that have gone into protecting and enhancing those resources be compromised due to lack of appropriate planning.

The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County is an active member for the Goleta Slough Management Committee (GSMC). With the City of Santa Barbara, GSMC will manage the proposed project. GSMC was established in 1991 and has worked cooperatively with agencies, property owners and NGOs to provide for a healthy Goleta Slough Ecosystem

since that time. In 1997, the Draft *Goleta Slough Ecosystem Management Plan* (GSEMP) was completed. GSMC is currently updating the GSEMP and, with sufficient funding, will incorporate a preliminary sea level rise study into the update. The updated management plan will allow the jurisdictions and stakeholders who have an interest in the greater slough area to work together on its future sustainability.

The revised GSEMP and sea level rise study will be of great value to local agencies, environmental groups and property owners, state and federal agencies, as well as UC Santa Barbara. The project will include one of the first site-level sea level rise vulnerability assessments in the region, and as such it will serve as a climate adaptation pilot project. The project will result in new information and strategies that will be used by local jurisdictions to plan and manage the built and natural assets of the slough, as well as serving as a template for other areas vulnerable to impacts of sea level rise.

I strongly support this project and urge you to approve the City of Santa Barbara's grant request.

Sincerely,



Michael Feeney, Executive Director



Santa Barbara Audubon Society, Inc.

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

5679 Hollister Avenue, Suite 5B, Goleta, CA 93117

(805) 964-1468

December 19, 2011

Douglas Bosco, Chair
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Support for the Goleta Slough Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment Project

Dear Chairman Bosco:

As President of Santa Barbara Audubon Society (SBAS), I wish to express the chapter's strong support of the City of Santa Barbara's funding request to the State Coastal Conservancy to update the 1997 Draft *Goleta Slough Ecosystem Management Plan* to include a Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment.

The Goleta Slough, located in southern Santa Barbara County, is one of the largest coastal wetlands on California's Central Coast and provides valuable habitat for numerous species. The Slough has been designated as a globally important bird area as part of the Goleta Coast IBA. The Slough also encompasses a complex array of land uses including a County Park, a state ecological reserve, a regional airport, two sanitary district facilities, underground gas storage facilities and pipelines, other utilities infrastructure, several businesses, and numerous roads, bridges, and water conveyances, both natural and channelized. Many of the roads in and around Goleta Slough lie at low elevations.

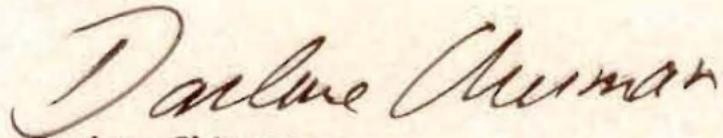
Slough conditions could change dramatically in future decades with increased sea levels. Facilities located within the Slough area provide numerous essential services to the community. Without advance planning, projected changes to the slough could lead to devastating losses of species and ecological functions, as well as hundreds of millions of dollars of direct damages and lost infrastructure and economic productivity.

The project is a high priority for SBAS, which has been an active participant in the Goleta Slough Management Committee (GSMC) since its inception in 1991. I have personally been the chapter representative to the GSMC for a dozen years. SBAS has implemented several small restoration projects within the Goleta Slough over the past fourteen years, and conduct bird watching field trips in the area. We have also reviewed and supported the restoration projects undertaken by UC Santa Barbara, the Santa Barbara Airport, and the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County within the Slough. We support the project goal of planning for the future conservation and management of the Slough's rich natural resources and infrastructure taking into account the anticipated climate change impacts.

The GSEMP Update and particularly the Sea Level Rise Study will be of great interest to local agencies, environmental groups and property owners, state and federal agencies, as well as UC Santa Barbara. The project will include one of the first site-level sea level rise vulnerability assessments in the region, and will result in new information and strategies that will be used by the many agencies and organizations working in the Slough area.

Santa Barbara Audubon strongly supports this project and urges approval of the requested grant to the City of Santa Barbara to fund this project. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this grant proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darlene Chirman". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Darlene Chirman
President, Santa Barbara Audubon